

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph:

cl [0030] The pH of the polishing slurry may be varied by adding a source of hydroxyl ions to the slurry. Suitable sources of hydroxyl ions may include potassium hydroxide (KOH), ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), magnesium hydroxide (MgOH) (Mg(OH)₂), calcium hydroxide (~~CaOH~~) (Ca(OH)₂), and combinations thereof, among others.